

The Sabbath of Sabbaths

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is referred to as the Sabbath of Sabbaths; it is the holiest day of the year. On this day, God considers and weighs the deeds of all humankind.

Forgiveness for sin is the principal theme of Yom Kippur. God is merciful and will forgive those who truly repent, for sin is a human weakness that can be overcome by repentance, prayer and charity. Yom Kippur, then, is also an annual rebirth, for we gain a new spiritual life through the inner peace achieved by repentance.

Before we can be forgiven for those sins committed against God, however, we must seek and obtain the pardon of all those we have wronged during the year. Before Yom Kippur, all disputes must be settled; all wrongs confessed, and forgiveness granted by those harmed.

This day of atonement, of final judgment, is also a day of self-affliction, a day on which no work may be done and a day of complete fasting.

Perhaps the most moving prayer in all our tradition is chanted on the eve of Yom Kippur — *Kol Nidre*. This prayer, translated as "all vows", is a proclamation that all personal vows made hastily, impulsively or without thought during the year should be annulled. This refers not to vows made between persons, but rather vows made to God. The

prayer also serves to forgive those Jews who throughout history, under threat of torture or death, have been forced to renounce their religion and accept another faith. The melody of the *Kol Nidre*, which is probably of 16th Century South German origin, speaks to the heart. Chanted three times, it seems to cry out for forgiveness, compassion and mercy. Later in the evening service, another of the great prayers of the High Holy Days is recited, an all-encompassing confession, the first words of each line beginning with "For the sin we have sinned against Thee." Every possible sin that might have

(Continued on page 9)

Schedule for Yom Kippur Services

Friday, October 5

Kol Nidre Service, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 6

Shacharit and Musaf Services,
10:00 a.m.

Yizkor and Ne'ilah Services,
6:00 p.m.

All Yom Kippur Services are being held
at the Unitarian Center, corner of
Franklin and Geary.

Our Sukkah Away From Home

As you may have noticed, the grounds of the synagogue are not large enough to hold a *sukkah*. So, for the second year — now it's a tradition — Paul Cohen and Allan Gold have graciously invited us to share their home and *sukkah* for our Sukkot celebration. We will meet at their home at 424 Central Avenue at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 10, for a festival evening service, the blessing over the *lulav* and *etrog*, and a fabulous dairy potluck dinner. Please join us for this celebration.

Women's Pool Party

On Saturday, October 20, the Women's Chavurah will enjoy a Pool/Hot-tub/Board game Party, concluding with a potluck Havdallah dinner. All this will happen at the home of Betty Kalis and Marion Trentman in Danville.

Specific information will be mailed to all women on Sha'ar Zahav's mailing list. Any women not receiving the mailing should call the synagogue office for details. We hope to see all our sisters there!

CSZ Meets Bugs Bunny & Friends

The excitement is mounting as Sha'ar Zahavniks are anxiously anticipating a day at Great America on Sunday, October 14. A chartered bus will leave the synagogue at 11:00 a.m. and is due to return at 7:00 in the evening. The cost to congregants and their friends is \$15.00; this includes a ticket for the bus and admission to the park. With admission to the park comes all the rides our stomachs can tolerate. This day will surely separate the women and the men from the girls and the boys. Watch this space next month for all the details on just who chickens out on the Demon!



President's Column

La Shanah Tovah! The New Year has much that is wonderful and exciting in store for Sha'ar Zahavniks. Plans are underway for our annual Chanukah party that promise to make it a real extravaganza. (I don't want to give away any surprises but, trust me, you don't want to miss it.) The Education Committee has undertaken the development of a series of programs and classes that will attract many participants and offer much in Jewish enrichment. The Building Committee is working with an architect on developing a proposal for renovation and use of the second floor of our "home". Allyce Kimerling has accepted the responsibility of chairing the Women's Chavurah, and plans are under

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Members of the Congregation receive *The Forward*. For a donation of \$10/year, nonmembers will receive *The Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due on the 10th of the month. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of *The Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alex Ingersoll (editor); Bob Goldware, Irene Ogus, Marilyn O'Keeffe and Leila Raim (editorial and production); Bart Benderoff, Allan Berenstein, Frank Hyman, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Alita Rosenfeld (distribution). *The Forward* is typeset by En Character and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more issues. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

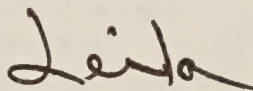
Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. *The Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

way to re-activate the Chavurah's monthly activities. (See elsewhere in this issue the notice for the October 20th pool party.) Even though it is just now time to say "Happy New Year", would you believe that next month we begin planning and arrangements for our next Purim party: Megillah Madness III? If you want to have the pleasure of making that event happen, call the office and leave a message for Judah Katz, Coordinator of Social Activities.

All of our activities, and the general operation of our congregational business, will benefit from the able services of our new synagogue administrator, Marilyn Hertzberg. She has been with us only a few weeks and already is developing systems to smooth the work of all our officers, Va'ad members, committee chairs and members. This means we will have increased services and smoother operations for the entire congregation. Marilyn, and the entire congregation, owe thanks and appreciation to Susan Greenspan, until recently our office manager. Susan came to us two and a half years ago when we were in chaos, with no office systems. She waded into the madness and, with unfailing good humor, brought order to our operations.

Clearly, 5745 will be another banner year in the life of Sha'ar Zahav. Thank for a moment of how far we have come in the seven short years since our founding. Now imagine yourself into the future of Sha'ar Zahav as you would like to see it. It is possible. It is ALL possible. TOGETHER we make it all happen!

Gut Yontif a Gut Yahr...



Torah Study Planned

In honor on Simchat Torah (October 19), there will be a Torah study session on Tuesday evening, October 16, 7:30 p.m. Plan on coming to this old-fashioned *shul/cheder* to study the Torah portion for the week. We hope that this will become a regular Tuesday evening event. Although the study sessions are designed for non-directed study, there will be tutors and self-proclaimed authorities there to help you in your study.

UAHC Essay Contest

The UAHC is in the midst of the 1984-85 Connie Bellin Memorial Essay Contest, open to members in good standing of congregations affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. There are three divisions for the contest: high school, college, and congregation (adult) division.

The overall winner in each division will be awarded a set of the Jewish encyclopedias, and there is a \$3,000 grand prize for the overall winner for all divisions. The subject for this year's essay contest is "What God Means To Me As A Jew." Essays are to be between 2,500 and 5,000 words and must be submitted by December 1, 1984.

If you are interested in entering the contest, you can receive a full set of rules and entry agreement by writing to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Connie Bellin Memorial Essay Contest, 838 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10021.

Attorney

David R. Gellman
(415) 621-2966

- Contracts & Leases
- Estate Planning & Wills
- Real Estate
- Business Law & Litigation

Reasonable Fees
Evening &
Weekend
Appointments

45 Franklin St.
San Francisco, Ca.
94102

Rosh Hashanah Donation to Shanti and Ward 5B

At its September meeting, the Va'ad voted unanimously to donate \$750 to the Patient Care Fund of Ward 5B at San Francisco General Hospital and \$750 to Shanti Project's Residential Care Program. Both donations are being allocated from the Congregation's Phooey on AIDS Fund, which was established in 1982 by Mark Feldman at the time that he was diagnosed with AIDS.

Ward 5B will use our donation for the likes of providing free TV service to patients, enabling relatives to visit SF, purchasing toiletries and possibly a blanket warmer. The Shanti Project will use our donation to assist in the furnishing and providing of necessities in their residential care centers.

The donations were sent under a cover letter from President Leila Raim in which she states that "at this time of reflection, renewal and hope (Rosh Hashanah), Sha'ar Zahav is pleased to be able to make this contribution and we pray that the need for such diminishes in this new year."

Food Drive Started

The Va'ad has also voted unanimously to establish a "food and practical household items drive" (can anyone come up with a snappier name?) to assist the related efforts of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

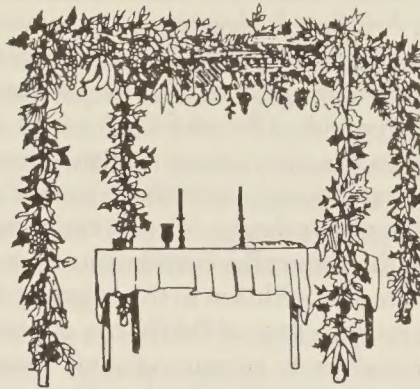
Your help is needed with practical household items such as detergent, hand soap, toilet tissue, facial tissues and toiletries. Food items needed include non-perishable canned items and dry goods such as tuna, salmon, sardines, canned vegetables, canned fruit and fruit juices and peanut butter.

So the next time you do your shopping, why not pick up something for our brothers who have contracted this insidious disease? Collection boxes have been placed in the Synagogue's Oneg Room. Let's try to fill them weekly.

Such a Roommate!

A new roommate service is now operating in San Francisco called The Jewish Roommate Referral Service. Organized as a project of Jewish Family & Children's Services, the service provides pre-screened potential roommates to applicants for a \$30 fee. Anyone interested should contact the Jewish Roommate Referral Service at 931-6253 for further information.

Sukkot: Joy in the Harvest



The holidays of the month of Tishri stand out in bold contrast to one another. The mood of austere awe and self examination that comes with Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur dissolves into the joy and thanksgiving of Sukkot, as if, now that we have spent forty days in the spiritual and metaphysical realm, it is now time to remember that we have a material and practical side, too.

Sukkot seems a curiously un-Jewish Jewish holiday, to us 20th Century urban Jews. Sukkot is the fall harvest festival and shares many outward characteristics with the harvest festivals of all ancient agricultural societies. It includes living in booths (*sukkot*) like the ones inhabited by ancient farmers as they harvested their crops, fertility symbolism, manifested in the waving of the *lulav* and *etrog*, and prayer for rain. (In the days of the Second Temple, this was represented by a water libation with overtones of sympathetic magic. Traditional prayerbooks still include prayers for rain and a description of the libation in their Sukkot liturgy.) Well, it's no news to anyone who has studied ancient history that many Jewish holidays stem from pagan roots. What is unusual is that the Talmudic rabbis, who were wont to obliterate any similarity between Jewish and pagan festivities, left Sukkot pretty much alone. Hence, it has remained the closest to these roots. Perhaps this is because the joy in the harvest, in the ingathering of our sustenance, is not particularly a Jewish emotion; it is a human emotion, and as such, it creates a universal bond between all people.

And, of course, there are uniquely Jewish aspects to Sukkot. The booths remind us of the Tabernacle in the wilderness as well as the harvest cabins. On still another level, they remind us of our frailty, and that of all we accomplish, before God and nature. The *lulav* and *etrog* have many legends about them. Perhaps the best known is the parable of how the four species represent the four kinds of Jews: the *etrog* has both taste and smell, representing those who both study

Torah and do good deeds; the palm has taste but no smell, like those who study Torah, but do not do good deeds; the myrtle, which has smell but no taste is like those who do good deeds but do not study Torah, and the willow (I always felt sorry for the willow) has neither taste nor smell, like the Jew who neither studies Torah nor does good deeds. As all the four species are necessary to Sukkot, so all four types of Jews are necessary to the community. And, the harvest itself may be seen as a metaphor. We have gone through the spiritual searching and cleansing of the Days of Awe, and having made peace with God and our companions, we are now free to enjoy the harvest of our souls. May we reap its fruits with joy and blessing.

— Leslie Bergson, Chair
Ritual Committee

Social Action

Anti-Nuclear Forum

Following the Oneg Shabbat on November 2, speakers from the Bay Area Jewish Anti-nuclear Coalition will present issues surrounding this most critical topic. Drawing from a pool of speakers including rabbis, scientists, physicians and politicians, the presentation will focus on the Jewish perspective to the issues, with time for discussion and questions.

Although an hour after Oneg is hardly enough time to adequately discuss the nuclear issue, we hope that many members of the Congregation and the community will find this forum both informative and provocative. If interest is sufficient, we hope to schedule a subsequent mid-week debate with pro-nuclear advocates as well.

Vigil for Soviet Jewry

Sha'ar Zahav is continuing to work with the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry to maintain a protest vigil in front of the Soviet Consulate at Green and Baker. Our time slot is the second Wednesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to noon. Placards are provided. The dates for the next two months are:

Wednesday, October 10, 11:30 a.m. to noon

Wednesday, November 14, 11:30 a.m. to noon

The Social Action Committee will be meeting on Thursday, October 18 at my house. Please contact me at 647-4050 for any further information.

— Ron Lezell, Chair
Social Action Committee

Oneg Sponsors

During the month of August, Friday night Onegs were sponsored by the following generous persons:

- August 3 — **Allan Berenstein**, in honor of the 9th anniversary of Leila Raim and Catherine Wisniewski
- August 10 — **Ron Lezell**, in honor of John Golebowski's 79th birthday
- August 17 — **Don Albert**, in honor of the visit of his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Monroe Albert
- August 24 — **Sam Thal**, in honor of Frank Hyman's birthday; Flowers given by **Elliott Schneck** in honor of the visit of his parents, Morris and Gertrude Schneck
- August 31 — **Susan Ganz** and **Diane Kuchins**, in honor of their holy union

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact Peter Abinanti at 441-0276 or at an Oneg or leave a message at the Synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is \$50 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Support A Fund — Any Fund

Sha'ar Zahav's health is founded on a good spiritual and fiscal base. The Finance Committee wishes to remind all members and friends of the Congregation of the various funds that are available for your support. Any reason is a good reason for contributions: a birthday, anniversary, yahrzeit, simcha, etc., etc. You may specify which fund your gift is to be dedicated to. Our funds are:

The General Fund is used to underwrite the ongoing activities and committee programs of the Congregation.

The Building Fund is used for mortgage payments and building improvements.

The Education Fund is earmarked to cover the costs of teachers for classes, books and learning materials, film programs, lecturer stipends, etc.

The Harvey Milk Social Action Fund is used to make contributions to social causes that the Synagogue wishes to lend support

Jewish & Provocative

Bay Area Jewish Newsletter, a rather young publication in the Bay Area, is one of the more fascinating as well. Their stated purpose is to "provide a forum for educators and authors to address issues that are relevant to young Jews; and... to provide a comprehensive monthly calendar of Jewish events going on in the Greater Bay Area Jewish community." Thus, in addition to the calendar, any one month's issue of BAJN may contain a "serious" essay examining some issue of modern Jewish life, a book or film review, a short story or poem and a letters column to carry on a discussion of some of the controversial issues examined in previous issues.

An article in the June issue examined "Has the Single Jew Become Marginal to Jewish Life?" The August issue contains a letter pointing out that the author of that article had completely ignored gays and lesbians in his examination of "single" or "unmarried" Jews, and went on to respond with an extensive examination of our import to the issues raised in the article. Thank you BAJN for providing a forum for an ongoing dialogue on so many important issues.

Subscriptions to this monthly publication begin at \$12/year (there are higher contributor rates as well); write to BAJN, P.O. Box 4574, San Francisco, CA 94101.

Calendar for 5745

November 1984

- Fri 2 Forum by Bay Area Jewish Anti-nuclear Coalition
- Sun 4 Congregational Meeting
- Mon 12 Va'ad Meeting
- Fri 23 Interfaith Service

December 1984

- Mon 10 Va'ad Meeting
- Tue 18 Erev Chanukah
- Fri 21 Chanukah Service
- Sat 22 Chanukah Party

January 1985

- Mon 14 Va'ad Meeting

February 1985

- Wed 6 Tu B'Shevat
- Mon 11 Va'ad Meeting
- Fri 22-Sun 24 UAHC No. Cal. Biennial
- Sun 24 JWF Telethon

March 1985

- Wed 6 Purim Service
- Sat 9 Megillah Madness III
- Mon 11 Va'ad Meeting

April 1985

- Fri 5 Passover
- Sat 6 Congregational Seder
- Mon 8 Va'ad Meeting
- Fri 12 Yom HaShoah Service
- Thu 18 Yom HaShoah
- Wed 24 Yom HaZikaron
- Thu 25 Yom Ha'Atzmaut

May 1985

- Sun 5 Congregational Meeting (Tentative date, elections)
- Thu 9 Lag Ba'Omer
- Mon 13 Va'ad Meeting
- Sat 25 Erev Shavuot Service

June 1985

- Thu 6-Sun 9 9th Int'l Conference of Gay & Lesbian Jews, Washington, D.C.
- Mon 10 Va'ad Meeting
- Sun 23 Gay/Lesbian Freedom Day Parade

July 1985

- Mon 8 Va'ad Meeting
- Sun 28 Tisha B'Av

August 1985

- Mon 12 Va'ad Meeting
- Sun 18 Castro Street Fair

September 1985

- Mon 16 Rosh Hashanah 5746

Words From a Neighbor

In April, Mike Rankin, then president of Sha'ar Zahav, attended a Shabbat service at Temple Emanu-El. At that service, Associate Rabbi Robert Kirschner delivered a sermon very critical of homosexuality. Mike wrote to Rabbi Kirschner expressing grave concern and dismay and inviting a dialogue. Rabbi Kirschner responded openly and positively and began a process that has brought him to services at Sha'ar Zahav and brought about the following sermon, delivered to Congregation Emanu-El in August. At the Rabbi's invitation, Mike and I attended that service; we think everyone will be interested in these words from a neighbor.

— Leila Raim, President

Rabbi Kirschner's Sermon

Last April on a Sabbath morning, I delivered a sermon to our congregation on the subject of homosexuality. The text was a Biblical verse (Lev. 18:22) which describes it as an abomination punishable by death (cf. Lev. 20:13). I discussed this and other denunciations found in biblical and rabbinic literature (e.g., Gen. 19:5 ff., Judges 19:22 ff., b. Sanh. 58A, Yad, Melakhim 9:5-6) and reached the inescapable conclusion that Judaism as we know it objects to homosexuality in no uncertain terms.

The words of the Torah and the sages have not changed since last April, but my own thinking has. While I still believe that it is my responsibility as a rabbi to report the ancient verdict of Judaism concerning homosexuality, in all conscience I can no longer report it without objection.

Reform Judaism departs from the Torah on occasion: we do not stone adulterers; we do not ostracize children of forbidden marriages; we do not put idol-worshippers to the sword. Such biblical legislation, we believe, is the work not of divine but of mortal and fallible hands, and we consign it to the antiquity from which it came. The divine content of the Torah, we believe, is found in its transcendent vision of justice, peace, and compassion. The God we revere is the One who, as R. Akiba taught (M. Ab. 3:18), creates each of us because He loves us, and who, as the Mishnah says (Sanh. 4:5), considers each life to be worth the life of the whole world. These beliefs, to my own way of thinking, do not square with a judgment of anathema upon homosexuals. Whether homosexuality is biologically or culturally induced may be an issue for academic debate, but not for moral judgment, at least not mine. Certainly Judaism affirms the mitzv

voth of marriage and procreation. But this does not require us to condemn those people who cannot fulfill them. "Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God," says the prayer book, *she-asani kirtzono*, "who has made me according to His will." Each of us, in our unique being, is the work of His hands and the bearer of His image.

There is reason for raising this subject at this time. Recently a group of youths in the state of Maine came upon a gay man near a bridge over a river. Despite his pleas that he could not swim, they threw him into the water, where he drowned. One night a few weeks ago some boys from Vallejo drove to San Francisco, found a gay man on Polk Street, and rather casually beat him to death. Lest we think that these two murders are isolated cases of cruelty, we might consider the comments that the press published from each community. In Maine, several local citizens were quoted to the effect that they had mixed feelings about the gay man's death. He dressed provocatively, they said; he was asking for trouble. In Vallejo, the mother of one of the accused assailants expressed little regret, and less remorse. She herself did not care for gays. "I don't approve of their lifestyle," she said.

My friends: what we are witnessing here is something that Jews should recognize. The idea that you commit an offense not by what you do but by how you look; that merely by your presence you are an affront that deserves contempt and invites violence; that it is a crime and a provocation merely to be who you are — this is an idea we have heard before. It nearly incinerated our own people. It is tattooed on our own flesh and written in our own blood. And yet our local Jewish agencies, our Jewish newspaper, our Board of Rabbis — none has uttered one word

of concern over the escalating violence against gays, not one word of protest or indignation. Is the wanton murder of the defenseless and innocent not a Jewish issue? Or is it not quite a proper issue because the victims are homosexuals? Are we, the perennial victims of this kind of hatred, to stand by in silence when it is turned on others?

Imagine if a Jew — let us say, one who does not happen to be gay — were murdered on the streets of our city, for no other reason than that he was a Jew. Or imagine if such a Jew were expelled from a hospital because his Jewish disease was fatal and no one wanted to care for him. Imagine the outrage of the Jewish community if, God forbid, such things were to happen. Then imagine what the gay community must feel at this moment, and imagine what they must think of our silence.

— Rabbi Robert Kirschner
24 August 1984

New Childcare Center

The SF Jewish Community Center has recently expanded its pre-school program and has opened the SFJCC Early Childhood Center at 325 Arguello Boulevard. This child care center is the first full day, year-round program ever developed by a Jewish agency in the city.

The Center is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for children aged 2½-5 years and incorporates a unique parent-support component as part of its basic service. Ongoing parent support groups and workshops on child development and parenting skills will be led by the professional staff at the Center.

For information on the programs or to secure an application, call the Center at 346-6040, ext. 516.

Notice

SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, November 4
4:00 p.m.

Brief business meeting, followed
by dedication and nosh

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in *The Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past month by the following contributors:

For the General Fund —

David Stein, in memory of his mother, Fannie Stein

Helen Zimmerman, in memory of her husband, Allan Zimmerman

For the Building Fund (general) —

Sen Talley, in memory of her father

Jon Funk, in honor of Pete Johnson's birthday, in honor of Melinda Griffin's birthday, in memory of Dr. Mark Blecher, father of Jack Blecher, and in honor of the High Holy Days

Clay Tadechi and Louis Bloom, in honor of the Charles Bloom Foundation

For the Library Fund —

Dr. and Mrs. Monroe Albert, in honor of the Congregation

Office Notes

Shalom Sha'ar Zahavniks. Your warm welcome to me, as the new Administrator, has been greatly appreciated in the past month. I am very pleased to be here and to be working with this congregation. My current office hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Thursday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Periodically there will be exceptions, such as when I run errands or in weeks when I attend the Va'ad meeting. If there are significant changes to that schedule, however, I'll notify you in *The Forward*.

I will now be maintaining a Master Calendar for the Congregation, which will include both synagogue and relevant community events. To make this calendar work, it is essential that everyone check with me before scheduling any Sha'ar Zahav events. Likewise, please send me all materials to be posted on the bulletin board. Thanks for your cooperation.

Finally, I'm setting up a reference file of all the catalogs dealing with Judaica of any sort which come to the office. If interested, give me a call during office hours to find out if we've got what you're looking for.

— Marilyn Hertzberg
Administrator

Gay? Lesbian?

Jewish?

Not a member of Sha'ar Zahav?

**A
SCHANDE!**

To receive a membership application, simply request one by phoning the Sha'ar Zahav office at 861-6932, write to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114, or pick up at services, every Friday night at 8:15.

Education Committee Report

The Education committee held two meetings in September to discuss programming for our Congregation. At the first meeting, the committee discussed the summary of education activities generated at our 1984 leadership advance. The group discussed the overall role of education in our congregation as enriching our lives and giving more meaning to membership in Sha'ar Zahav. It was felt that our congregation should serve as a clearing house for information on outside resources and classes as well as developing our own programs.

There was a discussion about the types of activities in which we can become involved. These were evaluated and ranked in order to determine the most appropriate activities for initial development. There was limited discussion on the content of these programs at the first meeting. The second meeting was devoted specifically to content and assigning responsibilities for the structuring of specific activities. At the time of the writing of this article, no more specific details were available.

The Committee expects to present the Va'ad with a preliminary plan at the October meeting. Members are invited to participate in the Education Committee. They may call the office or see the calendar for future scheduled meeting dates.

At the Magnes

Two exciting shows are at the Judah L. Magnes Museum this fall. The first is entitled "Jewish Life in America: Fulfilling the American Dream" and was assembled by the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith, in cooperation with the American Jewish Historical Society. The exhibit features some 250 photographs which chronicle five distinct periods of Jewish history in America beginning with the arrival of the first Jews to Nieuw Amsterdam in 1654. The commentary focuses on the social changes which each of those immigrations brought — to America and to American Judaism.

The second show is entitled "Jewish Life in Northern California: Pacific Pioneers." This show, which complements the first, was curated by the archivists of the History Center and the Women's Guild of the Magnes Museum. All of the photographs, original documents and artifacts in this exhibition were drawn from the extensive collection of the Western Jewish History Center at the Magnes.

Both exhibitions run through December 30. The Magnes Museum is located at 2911 Russell Street in Berkeley and is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday through Friday. For more information, please call the museum at 849-2710.

OCTOBER

תשרי - חשוון

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	5 Tishri 1	6 2	7 3	8 4	9 5 Erev Yom Kippur See Yom Kippur Service Schedule	10 6 Yom Kippur Yizkor
11 7 Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm	12 8 Newsletter Comm. Alex, 431-7541	13 9	14 10 Erev Sukkot Service/Potluck 424 Central Ave. Newsletter Deadline	15 11 1st Day Sukkot	16 12 2nd Day Sukkot	17 13 3rd Day Sukkot
18 14 4th Day Sukkot Great America Outing 11am	19 15	20 16 Torah Study 7pm	21 17	22 18 Yizkor Social Action 7pm, Ron, 647-4050	23 19 Simchat Torah	24 20 Women's Chavurah Pool Party Betty/Marion, 837-2856
25 21	26 22	27 23	28 24	29 25 Ritual Co.6:30pm 631 O'Farrell, Fl.2 Newsletter Mailing 431-7541	30 26 Rosh Chodesh I	1 Heshvan 27 Rosh Chodesh II
2 28	3 29	4 30 East Bay Lunch Group, Lenny 451-1850	5 31			

October Ritual Calendar

Friday, October 5

Kol Nidre Service, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 6

Shacharit and Musaf Services, 10 a.m.

Yizkor and Ne'ilah Services, 6 p.m.

All Yom Kippur Services held at the Unitarian Center, corner of Franklin and Geary.

Wednesday, October 10

Erev Sukkot

Sukkot Services & Potluck

at 424 Central Avenue, SF

(Paul Cohen & Allan Gold's house)

Garry Koenigsberg, Services

Friday, October 12

Hol ha-Moed Sukkot

Special Parshah: Ex. 33:12-34:26,

Num. 29:17-12

Special Haftarah: Ezekiel

38:18-39:16

Ritual Committee and Friends,

Services

Friday, October 19

Simchat Torah Celebration

Parshah: Bereshit, Gen. 1:1-6:8

Haftarah: Isaiah 42:5-43:11

Ritual Committee and Friends,
Services

Friday, October 26

Shabbat Rosh Chodesh

Parshah: Noah, Gen. 6:9-11:32

Haftarah: Isaiah 66:1-24

Jon Funk and Eric Keitel, Services

November Preview

Friday, November 2

Parshah: Lech Lecha, Gen. 12:1-17:27

Haftarah: Isaiah 40:27-41:16

Leslie Bergson and Terry Rothchild,
Services

Saturday, November 3

Saturday Morning Service, 10:30 a.m.

Bob Mackey's Bar Mitzvah

Steve Greenberg and Bob Mackey,
Services

Friday night services begin at 8:15 in the sanctuary of our synagogue, located at 220 Danvers at Caselli in San Francisco.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained several new members in September. A warm welcome to:

Randy Heilbrunn

Ellen B. Kugler

Rosalinda del Moral

Deborah R. Pines

Marilyn O'Keeffe

Jerry Sacks

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

Can I play the violin on Shabbat?

Melodious in Menlo Park

Dear Melodious,

Aunt Yente does not know. Have you taken lessons?

Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

What kind of answer is that to give a person?

Melodious in Menlo Park

Dear Melodious,

Aunt Yente begs your pardon. If she was trying to avoid your question, it is only because the answer is so *oysgemitchit*. Still, it was Aunt Yente's idea to write a column. Yes? Of course yes. So the question is, what is proper to do on Shabbos; and the answer is — what else — it depends.

The Torah is not a bad place to start. The ten commandments say to keep Shabbos holy, and not to work in it. Elsewhere, the Torah prohibits using fire, buying and selling, gathering wood and food, and carrying burdens.

The rabbis of the Talmud went further, with typical talmudic logic. When the Jews were commanded to build the Tabernacle, they were warned that the work of building was not to be done on Shabbos. From this, the rabbis deduce that all the tasks necessary to building the Tabernacle are "work" forbidden on Saturday, and they list thirty-nine categories of such tasks. The Talmud also came up with the concept of *muchzah*. Certain things you cannot even touch on Shabbos, even if not to do something forbidden. Tools and money are two obvious examples of things that are *muchzah*, but you may also be interested to know that you shouldn't touch an egg laid on Shabbos. Then again, you may not care. To a chicken, however, this is very important.

Then of course, these laws have gotten together and given birth to lots of little laws. (How do you think lawyers earn a living?) A for example: because we are not permitted to touch a candle on Shabbos, the rabbis prohibit reading by candlelight, as the reader might be tempted absentmindedly to move the candle closer. It is to avoid this temptation that so many members of our synagogue have installed track lighting.

Still, modern conveniences create their own *tsurus*. Aunt Yente's favorite she read in a book of "modern *halacha*". It is of course permitted, even required, to break the laws

of Shabbos in order to protect life or health; so if someone is sick, God forbid, they must be driven to the hospital. (Ordinarily, driving on Shabbos is prohibited by *halacha*, because of the fire in the engine.) But the crucial question for modern *halacha* was: Should the ambulance have a big engine, where the "fire" each time a cylinder is ignited is large, or is better a smaller engine, with smaller "fires" but more of them? (The *halacha*, if you are wondering, is that it is the number, not the size of ignitions that counts. So, if you must drive on Shabbos, Cadillacs are better than K-cars. This, Aunt Yente agrees with.)

There is an obvious danger here of losing perspective. If you look just at the restrictions, Shabbos becomes the day you can't do things, the day of inconvenience and boredom. This violates a basic commandment of Shabbos: to rejoice, to call Shabbat a festive time. As a very, very early reform rabbi pointed out, when people *kvetched* because his students were picking and eating more food than was *halachically* permitted on Shabbos: Shabbos was made for people, not people for Shabbos.

If you think Aunt Yente is against *halacha*, however, you have the wrong Aunt Yente. Where the *halacha* comes from — from the rabbis, or from your own heart, or even from a certain aunt of yours — this she is liberal about. But that *halacha*, a set of relatively inflexible rules, is necessary, this she believes.

Listen to your Aunt Yente: You're busy, no? Your boss just put you in charge of all West Coast chicken flicking operations, you go to an aerobic sushi bar three times a week, and you're on four Sha'ar Zahav committees. (Oh, you're not on any synagogue committees? Aunt Yente would maybe like to discuss something with you when you finish reading the letter.) The last time you got home before midnight, your refrigerator looked like it had been stocked specially for Yom Kippur, and the dustballs under the bed were so organized they were beginning to demand collective bargaining. With all this going on, how can you pass up one of your two free days a week and not do just a little shopping, a little cleaning, wrap up a few loose ends at work?

But passing these up is exactly what we have been commanded: to honor the Shabbos, and to set it aside. Why? Maybe because God said so. Or maybe because it is plain *seichel* that the busier you are, the more you need a full, planned day of rest, with absolutely no shopping, no cleaning, no work at all. The occasional exception soon takes

over; a day of rest with just a "few" chores soon becomes a more relaxed workday, and then where is Shabbos? What's more, *kinderlach*, where are you?

So a little *halacha* Aunt Yente thinks is necessary. Aunt Yente's *halacha*, however, often differs from the rabbis'; and if yours differs from hers, that's fine with her too (it's all right, you shouldn't know from how she suffers) as long as you don't start writing a column.

So. You want to play the violin. Traditional *halacha* says no — either because music was used in the temple, and is thus part of the definition of work, or because the violin is *muchzah*, so you can't touch it. (Why can't you touch it? Because it's *muchzah*. Why is it *muchzah*? Because you can't touch it.)

Aunt Yente says: Why are you playing it? To show someone how well you can play? Because you are giving a recital and need to practice? Because you promised yourself that this was the year you were going to learn to play? Aunt Yente says, this is work. Even if you play just for yourself, are you struggling to learn a new piece? This is also work. Leave it for a different day. But, if you play a little something just for its beauty, just for the pleasure of playing, of hearing, of sharing, Aunt Yente says: This is what Shabbos is for. Enjoy.

Aunt Yente

P.S. But on weekdays, you shouldn't forget to practice!

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of *The Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. Only a limited number of questions can be answered in *The Forward*, so if you want a personal answer, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. All material © 1984 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Remember

to keep us up to date.
If you've moved, changed your name, have a new phone number, or wish to add a listing to our *yahrzeit* or anniversary records, please call or write the synagogue office.

From the Treasurer

Dues statements have been coming back into the office with pleasing regularity — and most of you followed all the instructions perfectly. Several members have still not returned their 1984-85 dues form, however. Please take the time to fill it out soon. Remember that you must be a member in good standing to vote at the upcoming Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 4. Give me a call at 431-7541 if you won't be able to return the form by that date.

— David Stein, Treasurer

Shanti Needs Volunteers

The Shanti Project has sent out an urgent call for volunteers to work in their various support programs. In particular, the emotional support program needs additional volunteers to talk with and help process concerns of persons with AIDS and their loved ones. The practical support program seeks volunteers to help with cooking, shopping, housecleaning, etc.

Anyone interested in making such a valuable commitment for 6 hours a week for 6 months, please contact Jim Rulon at 558-9644. The Shanti Project is a non-profit organization offering "volunteer counseling for persons facing life-threatening illness and bereavement." Please consider committing some of your time to this worthwhile service.

Classified Ads

LOSE WEIGHT NOW, ASK ME HOW. Maintain weight or gain weight. Be energetic, look younger, feel better than ever. Transform your life. Be dynamic and positive. Peter, 441-0276.

POSITION AVAILABLE: For a special person who would like to coordinate distribution of classy newsletter for popular gay/lesbian synagogue. Work with an established, able staff, 1-2 night a month. On-the-job training available. For more info, call Alex Ingersoll (648-4818) or Bob Goldware (928-3370).

RENTAL HOUSING SOUGHT: The Shanti AIDS residence Program provides low cost housing for displaced people with AIDS in SE. The Program current seeks additional large apartments, flats or houses to rent. Requirements: 3-6 bedrooms, 2 baths, laundry area, good transportation. Contact Shanti Project at 558-9644.

October Yahrzeits

- 1 Tobias Rothstein, Great-grandfather of Judah Katz
- 1 (5 Tishri) Esther Toporek, Grandmother of Elliott Toporek
- 2 Morris Landesman, Grandfather of Jonathan Funk
- 7 (11 Tishri) Jacob Leiss, Father of Walt Leiss
- 8 Ronald Lane, Nephew of Herman I. Rifkin
- 11 Ida Goldware, Grandmother of Robert Goldware
- 14 Kathryn Kihn, Friend of Abigail Abbuehl
- 15 Abner Schmidt, Grandfather of Donald Albert
- 19 Steven Pines, Brother of Deborah Pines
- 20 (24 Tishri) Nathan Ogus, Father of Irene Ogus
- 21 (25 Tishri) Sara Marcus, Mother of Ben Marcus
- 24 Dora Spiro, Grandmother of Shelley Spiro
- 31 Mary Palmatier, Aunt of Dana Vinicoff

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

Sabbath of Sabbaths

(Continued from page 1)

been committed during the past year is named, in a collective confession, a plea for pardon not for the individual but for all peoples.

The following day is traditionally devoted to prayer and meditation. Toward late afternoon, portions of the Book of Jonah are read — a significant story for Yom Kippur since it shows the value of true repentance and teaches that God's mercy extends to all who repent.

The afternoon service is followed by a memorial service, and finally *Ne'ilah* — the "closing" service, which marks the closing of the gates of heaven, of mercy, for another year. It is the last chance for repentance and for forgiveness, and the final prayer, "May we enter Thy gates," expresses the wish to be sealed in the book of life.

A long, single blast of the shofar is sounded, as the Sabbath of Sabbaths comes to an end.

Adapted from Howard Greenfield's *Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur*, Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1979. Illustration by Elaine Grove.

HOLD THIS DATE!

Saturday Night, December 22

Sha'ar Zahav's Biggest and Best

CHANUKAH BASH

Watch for details

October Birthdays!

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Sharyn Saslafsky | 17 | Andy Swartz |
| 3 | Elliott Toporek | 18 | Steven Horowitz |
| 4 | Richard Inlander | 20 | Donald Berger |
| 6 | Marianne Sussman | 20 | Ron Moskowitz |
| 7 | David Wasserman | 20 | Bernard Pechter |
| 7 | Michael Zimmerman | 21 | Charles Norton |
| 13 | David Gellman | 23 | Seth Charney |
| 13 | Wendy Weiss | 29 | Allan Berenstein |
| 16 | Robert Mackey | 30 | Shelley Fernandez |

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

שַׁעַר זָהָב

220 Danvers at Caselli
San Francisco, California 94114
(415) 861-6932



MEMBER, UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

Officers:

President, Leila Raim
Vice President, Don Albert
Treasurer, David Stein
Recorder, Mark Mendelow

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Caselli at Danvers, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market Streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus no. 33 (Ashbury line) to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 p.m., with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are also held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Allan Berenstein
Leslie Bergson
Alex Ingersoll
Allyce Kimerling
Garry Koenigsberg
Ron Lezell
Cheryl Orvis
Jerry Rosenstein
Sharyn Saslafsky

Administrator:

Marilyn Hertzberg
The Synagogue Office is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Thursday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.

Emergency Number: In an emergency situation, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 864-0475 between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Committee Chairs:

Bikur Cholim, Rabbi Ben Marcus
Building, David Gellman
Bylaws, David Gass
Education, Don Albert, coordinator
Finance, Tom Rothgiesser
Membership, Allan Berenstein
Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll
Oneg, Peter Abinanti
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Rabbi Search, Aaron Cooper and Leila Raim
Ritual, Leslie Bergson
Social Action, Ron Lezell
Women's Chavurah, Allyce Kimerling
Coordinator of Social Activities, Judah Katz

Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

Va'ad Report

At the September 10 Va'ad meeting, President Leila Raim began by welcoming Marilyn Hertzberg, our new administrator, to her first Va'ad meeting. The Va'ad then voted unanimously to approve Leila's recommendation that we allocate an honorarium to Susan Greenspan as our way of thanking her for her dedicated work as our secretary.

In his Treasurer's Report, David Stein informed the Va'ad that dues collections are going very well and that we are in very sound shape financially. Eric Keitel spoke to the Va'ad about his participation as our delegate to this year's meeting of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations held in Seattle this past July. Rob Tat then presented a very comprehensive summary of this year's leadership Advance also held this past July.

New Business: The Va'ad voted to empower the President to make donations of up to \$50 on behalf of the Congregation at her/his discretion to appropriate groups in both the Gay/Lesbian and Jewish com-

munities. The Va'ad also voted to move the Israeli and American flags to the Oneg Room to attempt to ameliorate the concerns of those people who were offended by their presence in our sanctuary. This decision will be re-evaluated by February, 1985, in order to allow any concerned congregants an opportunity to give their feedback to the Va'ad regarding this sensitive issue.

Committee Reports: The Va'ad voted unanimously to accept the Social Action Committee's recommendations that \$1,500 from the Phooey on AIDS Fund be donated to the Patient Care Fund of Ward 5B at S.F. General and to the Shanti Residence Program, with each group receiving \$750. The Social Action Committee will also be sponsoring an informational discussion by the Bay Area Jewish Anti-Nuclear Coalition following Shabbat services on November 2. The Building Committee provided the Va'ad with an update on the development of plans for the second floor of the synagogue and on the replacement of the sound system in our sanctuary. Following the recommen-

dations of the Finance Committee, the Va'ad approved the transfer of \$500 from the General Fund to place \$250 in both the Congregational Discretionary Fund and in the Social Action Fund.

Judah Katz announced that Shirley Liberman has agreed to chair the committee of some 15 people who are planning this year's Chanukah celebration, to be held on Saturday, December 22. Meanwhile, with High Holy Days fast approaching, both the ritual and the High Holy Day committees reported to the Va'ad on their preparations for the upcoming services. Lastly, our busy little Membership Committee presented six new members who were unanimously voted into our congregational family.

A Friendly Reminder: Any member of the congregation is welcome at a Va'ad meeting to both observe and speak out on any issue of concern to her/him. This is a wonderful opportunity to let your voice be heard and to watch a wonderful, growing organization hard at work! Next month, the Va'ad will be voting on the synagogue's Kashrut Policy.

— Mark Mendelow, Recorder